United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1064
23 January 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council calls for immediate cease-fire in Mogadiscio and for increased United Nations humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

- Security Council recommends to General Assembly that Republic of Kazakhstan be admitted to United Nations membership; refers applications of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Committee for Admission of New Members to United Nations.

- United Nations emergency assistance to former Soviet Republics confirmed at meeting in Washington D.C. on 22 to 23 January.

- Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to travel to Belgrade on Saturday, 25 January, to help remove remaining obstacles for deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

- Donors pledge $6.7 million for assistance to some 350,000 displaced Cambodians on the Thai-Cambodian border.

- Governors of International Fund for Agricultural Development end three-day session in Rome; decides to hold World Summit for Women 25-26 February in Geneva.

- United Nations Seminar and NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine hears statements by Foreign Minister of Cyprus and Under-Secretary-General Ronald I. Spiers, among others.

* * *

The Security Council today called for an immediate cease-fire in the Somali capital, Mogadiscio, and for increased United Nations humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

The Council took that action by adopting unanimously a resolution introduced by Cape Verde and sponsored by the three African members of the Council.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Prime Minister of Somalia, Omer Arteh Ghalib, has repeatedly appealed to the Council, in letters addressed to the Secretary-General, to "come up with a programme of effective action to end the fighting" and restore peace in Somalia.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had expressed concern earlier this week over the escalating violence in Somalia, which, he said, "had grave implications for the Horn of Africa".

* * *

The Security Council recommended to the General Assembly this evening that the Republic of Kazakhstan be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The Council took that action, without a vote, in the first of five series of meetings on admission of new members.

In four other meetings, the Council referred action on the applications of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to the Committee on the Admission of New Members of teh United Nations.

Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom recommended that the Committee take up the applications at a meeting tomorrow, 24 January.

* * *

The United Nations has confirmed that it will assist in the immediate emergency response to the difficulties facing the people of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the former Soviet Union.

At a meeting today and yesterday in Washington D.C., called by United States Secretary of State James A. Baker, the Foreign Ministers of forty-eight nations agreed to organize global humanitarian efforts, focusing on food, medicine, housing, energy and short-term technical assistance needs.

It was noted at the meeting that the United Nations has already launched a series of activities related to energy efficiency, conservation, clean coal technology and the relationship between energy, environment and sustainable development, among other things.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented a proposal to coordinate technical assistance and help lay the groundwork for administrative reform, private enterprise development, and economic and banking reform. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III said the Programme had forty-one years of experience in providing development assistance to struggling governments in their transition towards democracy.

* * *

Spokesman François Giuliani told correspondents today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had decided to send

(more)

Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to Yugoslavia to help remove the remaining obstacles for the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in that country.

The Secretary-General met earlier today with the Serbian member of the Federal Yugoslavian Presidency and Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations on Peace-keeping Matters, Mr. B. Jovic, who expressed to the Secretary-General his wish to have a United Nations peace-keeping force deployed in Yugoslavia. Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in turn, expressed his desire to be as helpful as possible and to maintain the present momentum.

The Spokesman said that Mr. Goulding would arrive in Belgrade on Saturday, 25 January, where he would make contact with the various parties as well as with the United Nations military liaison officers who are already in Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General had stressed the importance of the cooperation with the European Economic Community (EEC) and in particular the necessity to make progress in the EEC-sponsored Conference on Yugoslavia.

In separate news today, the Spokesman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had received the Minister for Strategic Industries of Libya and Head of the Libyan Delegation, Jadallah Talhi, who brought a message from his Government saying that Libya would cooperate with the Secretary-General in the mission entrusted to him by the Security Council.

The Council had urged Libya, in a unanimous resolution earlier this week, to provide "full and effective" response to requests for cooperation in establishing responsibility for the terrorist acts against the Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

* * *

Donor nations have pledged almost $6.7 million for the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) and programmes assisting some 350,000 displaced persons along the Thai-Cambodian border. The pledges were made yesterday at a meeting of donors to the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes.

In a statement at the meeting, Shah A.M.S. Kibria, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Coordination of Cambodian Humanitarian Programmes, stressed the importance of continued support throughout the repatriation process, adding that removal of mines was an essential prerequisite to that process.

Also addressing the meeting, Fred Isler, a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said about 1200 people had been mutilated by mine accidents in 1991, which, added to the already 30,000 amputees in Cambodia, had placed the country as having the highest percentage of mine victims in the world.

The representative of Thailand told the meeting that some 700 members of the Royal Thai Army would participate in mine-clearing operations.

* * *

(more)

Press Release DH/1064
23 January 1992

The three-day annual meeting of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) came to a close today in Rome.

Reporting from the Italian capital, a United Nations press officer said the 147-member Fund had agreed during its meeting that negotiations on a fourth replenishment of funds should go ahead during the next few months and be completed in time for next year's meeting.

During the session, delegations had praised IFAD's work in rehabilitating villages on the coast of Bangladesh whose farms had been destroyed by hurricanes and tidal waves. Delegates also noted that IFAD not only provided first aid for such disasters, but also the necessary assistance to enable the poor to become self-supporting. An example of this was the Special Project for Africa which IFAD has supported for the past four years in response to the desperate needs of the farming families displaced by continuous drought.

The press officer reported that, in response to research findings that more than half of the work done in agriculture in less developed countries is done by women, IFAD had been promoting a "World Summit for Women". The proposal was concentrating on the theme that rural women should be given the necessary economic power to enable them to carry out their heavy responsibility in the village of feeding the children, keeping the home and running at least half the farm.

More than 40 "First Ladies" would be taking part in this Summit, which is scheduled for 25-26 February in Geneva.

* * *

The twenty-ninth United Nations Asian Seminar and Non-Governmental Organizations Symposium on the Question of Palestine is currently under way in Cyprus. Organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, this is the seventh seminar held in the Asian region.

Opening the seminar on Monday, 20 January, Foreign Minister of Cyprus George Iacovou said the question of Palestine was at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and had been a major concern of the United Nations for over 40 years. It presented one of the most serious challenges confronting the international community, he said. He called on Israel to fulfil all its obligations under the 1949 Geneva Convention to protect the Palestinians.

Representing Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the meeting, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, Ronald Spiers, called on the Palestinian and Israeli participants of the seminar to make use of this historic opportunity of meeting face-to-face to discuss their vital concerns and to try to identify and enlarge the parameters of mutual accommodation.

(more)

The seminar forms part of the Committee's efforts to promote a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question. The newly elected Committee Chairman, Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), said the Committee had consistently stressed the necessity of a two-State solution decided upon by the General Assembly when it partitioned Palestine in 1947.

* * *